A NEW GENUS OF TRIBELOCEPHALINAE FROM FERNANDO POO

(*Hemiptera Reduviidae*)

by W. E. CHINA (British Museum) & R. L. USINGER (University of California)

The subfamily *Tribelocephalinae* is widespread in the Old World tropics but does not occur in Australia or in the Western Hemisphere. Most of the species belong to two genera, *Tribelocephala* Stäl and *Opistoplatys* Westwood (*), but in recent years several remarkably divergent forms have been described. One of these is *Afrodecius* Jeannel (1919: 165) an African genus with a pincer-like rostral apex. But the most peculiar types are three Oriental genera, *Apocaucus* Distant (1910: 184), *Gastrogyrus* Bergroth (1921: 69) and *Homognetus* Bergroth (1923: 18). These genera differ from *Tribelocephala* and *Opistoplatys* in possessing two-segmented instead of three-segmented tarsi. In the present paper a genus is described which is still more aberrant, the tarsi being one-segmented, the thorax wingless and the head eyeless. We place the new genus in the *Tribelocephalinae* because it has the prosternal stridulatory groove which is so characteristic of *Reduviidae* and because it has a typically Tribelocephaline head without ocelli and a long basal rostral segment.

Xenocaucus n. gen.

Head subspherical with short antenniferous tubercles, no eyes and no ocelli. Upper surface and sides of head densely clothed with long hairs except for a diamond-shaped glabrous area at middle of vertex. No transverse sulcus, the vertex with a deep longitudinal sulcus. Head deflected downwards between antenniferous tubercles, only the base of first rostral segment visible from above. Antennae four-segmented, the first segment much longer than head, very thick and concave along ventral surface, with four longitudinal rows of hairs, two dorso-lateral and short and two ventro-lateral and long; those of the outer

(*) Emended to *Episthoplatys* by Stal.

ventral row short at apex of segment, increasing in length towards base, and directed outwards to form an interlocking fringe; inner ventral row equally long throughout and forming a downwardly directed fringe; segments 2, 3 and 4 at rest, lying in the ventral groove of first segment and extending backwards almost to base of segment. Second segment about one-third as thick and one-fourth as long as first segment; third segment slender, about one-fourth as long as second; fourth long and filiform, somewhat longer than second and third together, beset with long erect hairs. Rostrum with the long basal segment bent at right-angles near base so that the basal part projects anteriorly in front of head and is visible from above; second segment shorter and more swollen than first; third segment very short. Under surface of head with two parallel rows of dense hairs forming a « rostral groove » similar to that formed by the fringe in *Gastrogyrus*, bucculae obsolete. Thorax plate-like without wings or wing-pads, the dorsal disc depressed, the elevated sides with a border of dense matted long hairs, longitudinally sulcate down middle; pronotum transverse, mesonotum about as long as pronotum, the intervening suture distinct, metanotum short, consisting only of two lateral sub-triangular plates. Abdominal disc depressed, the elevated connexival plates broad densely beset along their margins by dense matted long hairs; vestigial larval scent gland openings on fourth and fifth segments only, the suture between fourth and fifth segments sinuate. Under surface with a longitudinal carina at middle of metasternum extending on to base of abdomen: venter rounded posteriorly.

Legs with short apically curved hairs along dorsal and ventral surfaces of femora and generally distributed on tibiae; front legs slightly enlarged, hind tibiae feebly swollen before the middle, the whole tibiae distinctly laterally compressed; tarsi one-segmented, thick at base tapering to apex; claws equal, straight and tapering; tarsi set characteristically on outer side of apices of tibiae.

Genotype: *Xenocaucus mancinii* China & Usinger n. sp.

Xenocaucus resembles *Apocaucus* Dist. in its densely pubescent head, but *Apocaucus*, judging by Distant's figure, has two-segmented tarsi and simple antennae, also well developed wings and compound

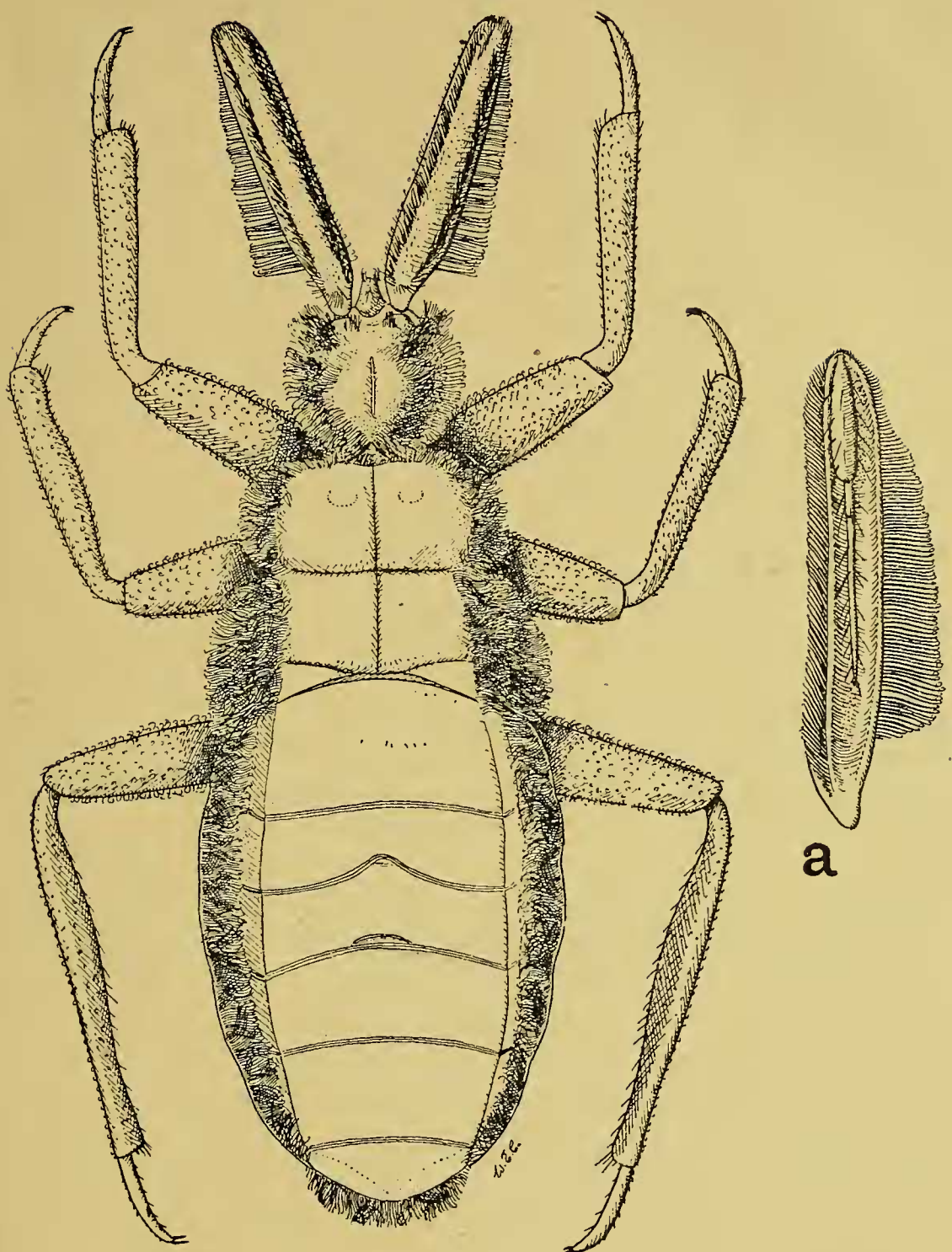

Fig. 1.

Xenocaucus mancinii gen. et sp. nov. – a. underside view of first antennal segment to show the second, third and fourth segments lying at rest in cavity of the first segment.

eyes. *Gastrogyrus* Bergr. has antennae which are similar to *Xenocaucus* but the head is not densely pubescent and has a curious membranous fringe at base which extends laterally downwards to form an angular

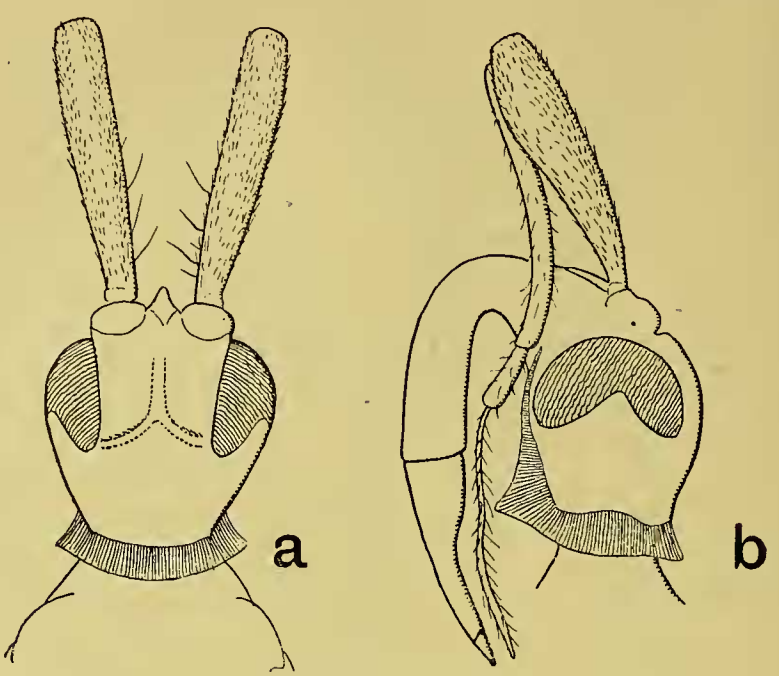

Fig. 2.

Gastrogyrus monophleboides Bergr. - Diagrammatic representation of head to show the curious membranous fringe described by Bergroth. - a. dorsal view; b. lateral view.

projection on each side and then extends forwards on under side of head to form a false rostral groove (see fig. 2). *Gastrogyrus* also has 2-segmented tarsi, well developed wings and compound eyes.

Xenocaucus mancinii China & Usinger n. sp.

Head slightly broader than long, 34:30, excluding the strongly constricted neck region which is about one-fourth as long as head. First antennal segment over twice as long as head, 70:30, the proportion of segments 70:20:5:25. Rostrum reaching middle of procoxae, the proportion of segments seen from below 22:25:5.

Colour rather uniformly pale brown or fulvous, completely encrusted with dirt before cleaning.

Size: Length 3.75 mm.; Width (pronotum) 0.8 mm.; (abdomen) 1.5 mm.

Holotype female, Musola, Island of Fernando Poo, 500-800 metres, March 1st 1902, L. Fea, Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova.

This species is dedicated to Mr. Cesare Mancini, hemipterist at the Genoa Museum who has contributed substantially to our knowledge of African Hemiptera and who assisted R. L. Usinger so much during a recent visit to Genoa.

The encrustation of mud and the absence of compound eyes suggest that, like the West Indian Lygaeid, *Anommatocoris minutissima* China, this insect lives in the soil.

LITERATURE CITED

BERGROTH, E. - 1921 — On some Opisthoplatyinae. Notulae Entomologicae, 1: 67-70.

— - 1923 — Two new Opisthoplatyinae. Notulae Entomologicae, 3: 18-19.

DISTANT, W. L. - 1910 — Fauna of British India. Rhynchota, 5: 184-185.

JEANNEL, R. - 1919 — Voyage de Ch. Alluaud et R. Jeannel en Afrique Orientale, (1911-1912). Insects Hémiptères, 3: 162-167 - Plate VI.